



The relationship between suicide and five climate issues in a large-scale and long-term study in Japan

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Year: 2012
Journal: The West Indian Medical Journal. 61 (5): 532-537

Abstract:

OBJECTIVE: Suicide rates in Japan were high in 1998 and have remained high since then. Many researchers have discussed the current state of suicide in Japan and the world; however, there are various opinions about the relationship between suicide and climate. **SUBJECTS and METHOD:** In the present study, we report on long-term data of suicide and examine five climatic issues in Japan as a whole and in 10 selected prefectures: the five with the highest suicide rates in 2006 (Akita, Iwate, Shimane, Yamagata and Miyazaki Prefectures) and the five with the lowest (Nara, Tokushima, Okayama, Kanagawa and Kyoto Prefectures). **RESULTS:** Annual age-adjusted suicide rates were found to have a significant inverse correlation with annual mean air temperature in the five prefectures with the highest suicide rates and in the three prefectures with the lowest suicide rates among women. Annual age-adjusted suicide rates were significantly correlated with annual mean relative humidity in the three prefectures with the highest suicide rates among women and with the annual total sunshine duration in the three prefectures with the highest suicide rates among women. **CONCLUSION:** It is important that these associations between suicide and climatic factors be discussed further from various viewpoints, including those of many researchers and relevant organizations.

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Meteorological Factors, Meteorological Factors, Precipitation, Solar Radiation, Temperature

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Asia

Asian Region/Country: Other Asian Country

Other Asian Country: Japan

Health Impact: ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Injury, Mental Health/Stress, Other Health Impact

Other Health Impact: suicide

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Other Vulnerable Population: women

Resource Type: ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified